



# The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

**Liberty Seated  
Collectors Club**

**2008 Volume 4, Issue 4**

**April 2008 (Whole # 37)**

## Roll of Uncirculated 1878-S Half Dollars Discovered!!



Sample Photographs courtesy of Stack's

This just in. An unnamed source has confirmed that an original roll of uncirculated 1878-S half dollars has just surfaced. As the information goes, the halves were found in the bank lock box of an elderly gentleman's estate in Sacramento, California. This gentleman was supposedly a casual coin collector who appreciated nice looking coins but had very few others in his possession at the time of his death, about 10 years ago. One family member even thought that the coins were passed down from his great-grandfather who probably picked them up at the San Francisco Mint in 1878.

With an estimated value in excess of \$2M, relatives of the deceased gentleman are supposedly locked in a heated debate over what to do with these coins. A few younger members want to sell them

immediately and retire while others wish them to remain in the family, distribute one each to all living relatives, or donate them to a worthy museum.

As the deceased had no immediate heirs and no will, the lesson learned from this is to update your will and include disposition instructions for your coin collection.

The family plans to have them certified by a third party grader and have them on display at the 2008 ANA Convention in Baltimore. Oh and by the way, this is important - April Fools!

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The *E-Gobrecht* is an award winning electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included at the end.



## Auction News

by  
**Jim Gray**

After a busy February, March was very slow with only two auctions and very few Seated coins offered.

A lovely 1873-CC no arrows half, an AU55, soared to \$10,350. A G4 1874-CC half realized \$758, and an UNC 1878-CC half, with pin scratches, still managed \$7,509.

The Heritage Phoenix ANA Show featured the following impaired coins: 1856-S dime, XF40, corroded, \$805; 1849-O quarter, AG3, damaged and scratched, \$690; and an 1855-S half dollar, VG10, damaged for \$431.

An 1872-CC dollar, in VF30, was fairly attractive except for the fact that Miss Liberty had a bullet hole in her left temple. It sold for \$2,990, and a cleaned XF 1878-CC Trade dollar realized \$1,150.

Two nice 1871-CC halves, both in XF45 sold for \$4,025 and \$3,220, respectively.

The Stacks Sale only featured two Seated coins: an 1872-S quarter in UNC, but cleaned, was withdrawn, and a lovely AU58 1855 dollar sold for \$5,003.

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## Question of the Month

by  
**Paul Kluth**

This topic is in regard to finding the most full proof method for long-term coin storage and preservation... For purposes of discussion, let's say you have a super high grade Seated Liberty denomination like an MS-66 to 67 or a superlative Proof that you are serious about ensuring that the surfaces never deteriorate or tone any further, what methods of long-term preservation have fellow members found to be virtually full proof storage and at the same time a reasonably affordable method? To clarify, one sees many fabulous high grade, bright white coins from very old collections in the major sales that someone has managed to preserve over many years without modern day storage techniques. What were some of the storage secrets used then? They certainly didn't have slabs, Intercept Shield and the like which even today may not always be 100% full proof or an absolute in a poor environment. And what really works in today's world?

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## LSCC Statistics

Current paid membership: 567 members an increase of 6 since last month

Current number of *E-Gobrecht* Subscribers: 382 including new subscribers since last month Scroncher, Brian Keefe, Richard Muratori, and Sean Kuhn.



# Christian Gobrecht

## Antique Glassware

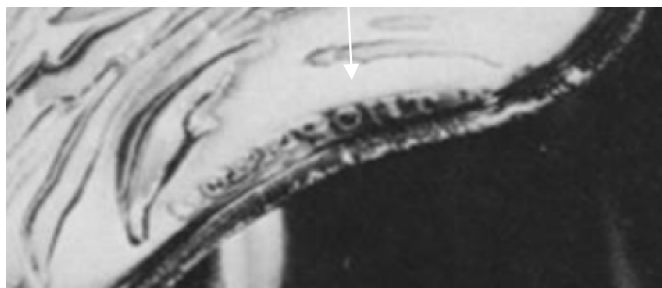
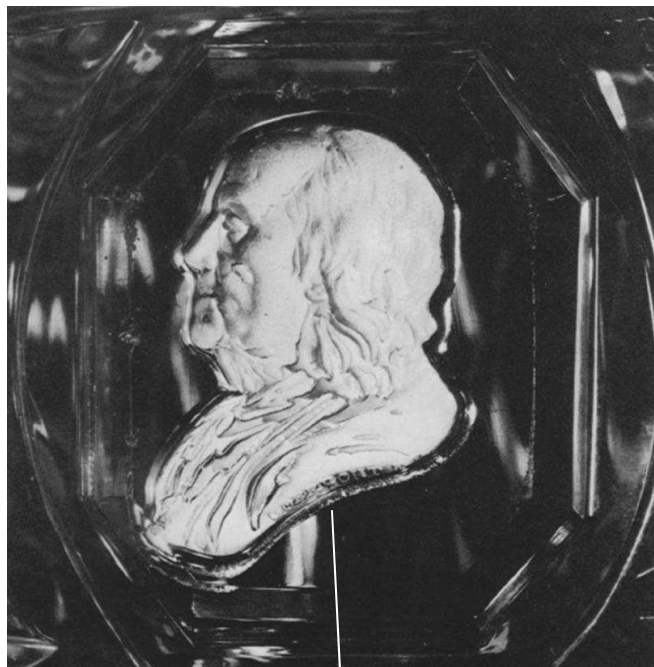
by Len Augsburger

In the most recent *Gobrecht Journal*, I described a number of early works of the engraver Christian Gobrecht, executed prior to his appointment as second engraver of the United States Mint in 1836. One of these, the Franklin Institute medal (Darrach-16 in the GJ article), was commissioned by the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia as an award medal in conjunction with its periodic technology exhibitions.

I discovered recently that this Franklin engraving was reused by the Pittsburgh firm of Bakewell, Page, and Bakewell, a manufacturer of cut and ornamented glass. The Franklin medal engraving is featured prominently on the side of a cut glass decanter, circa 1826, an example of which resides in the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The name 'GOBRECHT' can be seen in relief on the shoulder, as on the Franklin Institute medal itself. The same firm also tried embedding Gobrecht's Franklin inside a glass doorknob. The technique was known as "cameo incrustation", and being novel on American soil, the Bakewell firm engaged European craftsmen to produce these lovely glass pieces.

More information is found in the *American Art Journal*, January 1979. For the antique and glass collectors in the crowd, here are a couple pieces to be on the lookout for!

*[Editor, Len keeps finding these interesting Christian Gobrecht items.]*





# Rotated Seated Dimes Update

By Jason Feldman

After last month's article, I was hopeful that someone might surface something new. Unfortunately, nothing new surfaced but I do appreciate a few kind emails.

A new 1853-O dime with a slight rotation was located on eBay and an 1875-S dime without a clear S has surfaced.

I hope this information is useful to others.





## Information Wanted

I'm currently working on the large task of cataloging the known seated half dime errors known to collectors by date/mintmark. If you own any seated half dime errors, please send me an e-mail at the address below and provide the following information to make this survey as accurate as possible:

- Date and Mintmark of coin
- Type of error
- Grade
- Certification service if graded
- Photographs of both sides of the coin (if possible)

Information about any known errors including blank planchets is welcomed. The results will be published in an article at the end of this year. Dennis Hengeveld, [qeagle88@gmail.com](mailto:qeagle88@gmail.com)

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## **Notice: Availability of past issues of the E-Gobrecht**

Through the generosity of Gerry Fortin, the previous issues of the *E-Gobrecht* are readily accessible on his seated dime website at <http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/LSCC.htm>

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## Advertisements

**Rare Coins for Sale:** Since 1979, David Lawrence Rare Coins has specialized in Seated and Barber coinage for collectors. Please visit our web site for 6,000+ offerings of U.S. & World coins, currency, and stamps for sale and auction. We are also interested in buying or selling your coins at auction. <http://www.davidlawrence.com> or phone 1-800-776-0560, members: PNG, ANA (life), FUN, CSNS

**Liberty Seated Quarter Cuds & Rotated Dies Wanted:** Other U.S. series of interest as well. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth @ [pcmdmp@msn.com](mailto:pcmdmp@msn.com) or to the e-mail address of the *E-Gobrecht* newsletter.

**Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted:** I am looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at [jason@seated.org](mailto:jason@seated.org)

**Wanted to Buy:** Nice, problem-free bust and seated material. We specialize in affordable collector coins. Puro's Coins and Jewelry, web: [www.vtcoins.com](http://www.vtcoins.com), email: [puro@vtcoins.com](mailto:puro@vtcoins.com), phone: 800-655-1327.



## Subscriber Correspondence

From **Dennis Fortier**: I really enjoyed issue 101 of the Gobrecht Journal. I especially enjoyed the die preparation flow chart for the half dollars, the 1873 closed 3 over open 3 comparison, and the Gobrecht Catalogue Raisonne. The die prep gave me a clear understanding of the preparation of Seated coinage that I did not have before. The closed 3 over open 3 comparison was simply great. The technology we have today opens up many new avenues of research and discovery. Thanks you to all the knowledgeable contributors.

From **Jason Feldman**: I stumbled into this on the web. Have you seen it?

<http://www.coinlink.com/Articles/author/e-gobrecht/> [Editor's note: Check out this link. It contains Dennis Hengeveld's recent article in the E-Gobrecht and lots of other good information.]

From **Dick Osburn**: The market continues to be extremely hot. Rare coins of all series are moving fast and prices are moving accordingly. There probably won't be a better time in the next few years to fill the missing holes in your set. I don't see prices going anywhere but up.

We've just completed back-to-back national shows in Baltimore and Phoenix. The market coin market remains as strong as a bull elephant. Rare dates and varieties continue to be in strong demand. The demand was pretty consistent across the board. If any series could be considered hotter than others, I'd have to list bust quarters and halves and seated dollars among them. The seated dollars were particularly notable. We must have sold at least 30 pieces between the two shows. If you're looking to fill in a few tough holes in that series it may be a good time. The interest seems to really be picking up. New collectors are picking up on the incredible low mintages for this series and looking at them as having great investment potential.

The auctions continued to be strong. Prices were high in all the series I deal in. Still there were a few bargains to be had, so it's always good to keep watching. However, it's getting more notable all the time that a lot of the auction coins are low-end for the grade, so one has to be careful.

From **Paul Kluth**: Another great issue! This weekend was first chance I had to enjoy the info. Jason's article on the rotated dimes & color images was, of course, super for my specialized interest area!

From **Dennis Fortier**: Two Kids in a Candy Store (ahh...Coin Show)

LSCC member #1: Here's an AU 1858 Seated Half Dollar.

LSCC member #2: WHISPERED (I think it has an 8 & 5 in the denticles.)

Member #1: (you're right; are you gonna buy it?)

Member #2: (I can't. I already spent my money.)

Member #1: (I'll buy it. Mine is only VF.)

Member #2: (OK, I'll buy yours.)

Member #1: (OK) TRUE STORY.

I suspect the dealer overheard us whispering but it sure made me feel like a kid trading with my bestest buddy.



## Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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<http://www.lscweb.org>

## Mark your calendar !

- 35th Anniversary of the LSCC - 2008
- Regional meeting of the LSCC - April 18th, 9 AM, at the Central States Convention in Chicago
- LSCC annual meeting at the ANA Convention, Baltimore - July (Details TBD)
- LSCC Trade Dollar census - 2009

## LSCC Pledge

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

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LSCC Membership Information. Dues are \$20 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC President.

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the Editor, *E-Gobrecht*.

To be added or removed from the *E-Gobrecht* mailing list, send an email message with the words "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" in the subject line of the message to: [wb8cpy@arrl.net](mailto:wb8cpy@arrl.net).

### ***Wanted: Material for this newsletter!***

*Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.*

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